

Certification in South Carolina

March 10, 2023

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State Superintendent of Education

Office of Educator Services

Supporting Educators Throughout Their Careers



OES Teams

- Educator Preparation
- Certification
- Alternative Certification
- Customer Support and Logistics Staff



OES Functions

- Educator Preparation—Accreditation and Program Approval
- Educator Certification
- Alternative Route Certification
- CTE Work-based Certification
- Educator Ethics and Professional Practices
- Teacher Recognition (Teacher of the Year)
- Exchange Visitor Teacher Programs
- Critical Need Designations

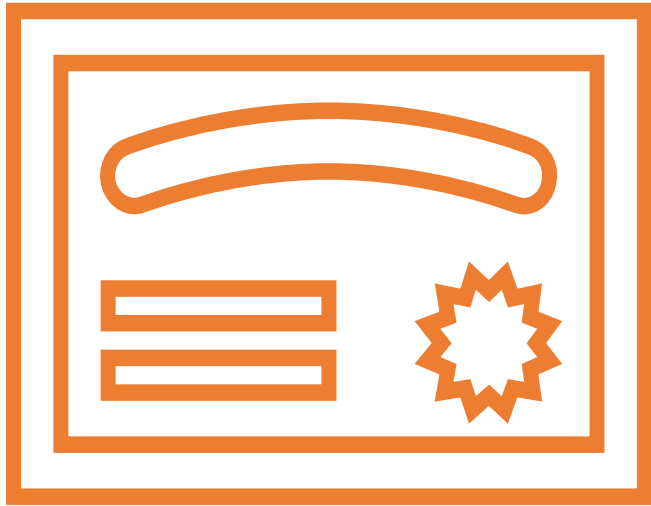


Today's Focus

Educator Certification



Why issue educator certificates?



Best assurance we have that an individual

- Has preparation in and knows the content area,
- Knows how to teach that content to students,
- has completed fingerprint-based background checks, and
- has not caused harm to a child while working as an educator in another state.



By the Numbers

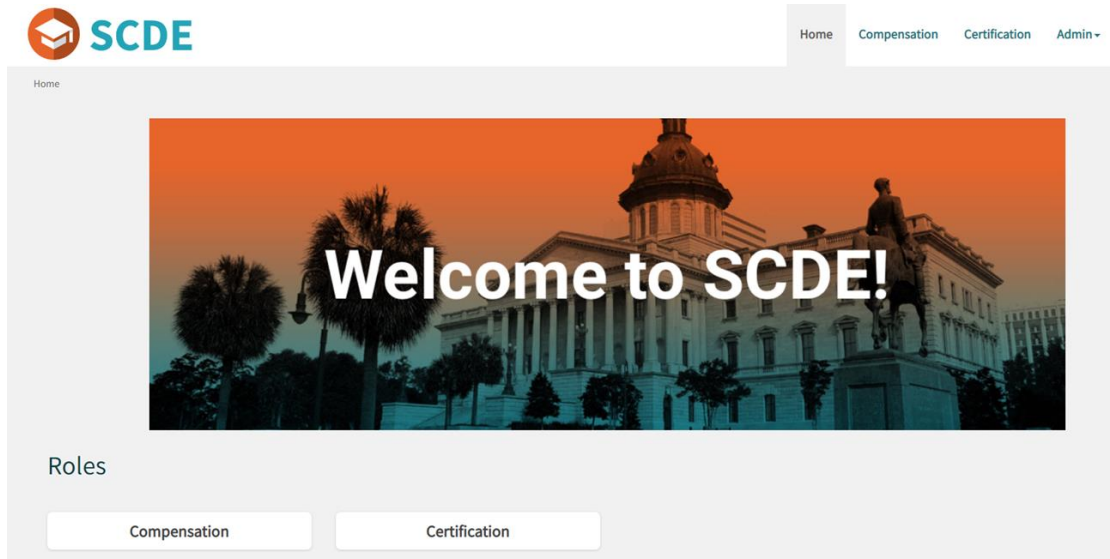
86,655 educators with a current, valid SC Certificate

- **63,982** are employed in SC public schools
 - **1,856** hold a current Alternative Route certificate
 - **1,313** hold a current CTE work-based certificate
 - **5,275** employed teachers completed an Alt Route
- **20,861** have 0 to 5 years of experience
 - **14,450** are currently employed in SC public schools
- **16,604** have 25+ years of experience
 - **10,818** are currently employed in SC public schools

Source: SC Educator March 2023



SC Educator *Information and Case Management System*



Combines two legacy applications into one system

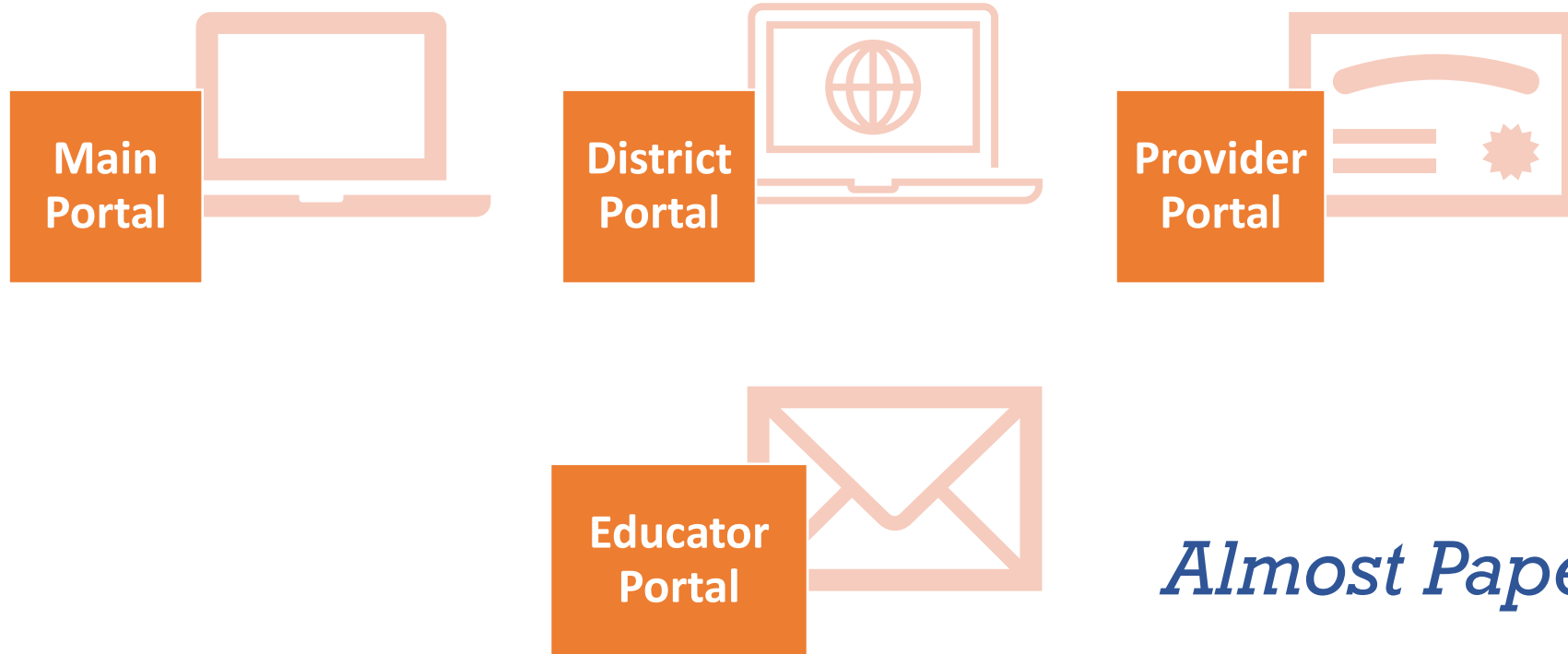
SC Educator Certification launched May 5, 2022

SC Educator Compensation launched Summer 2020

System enhancement continues

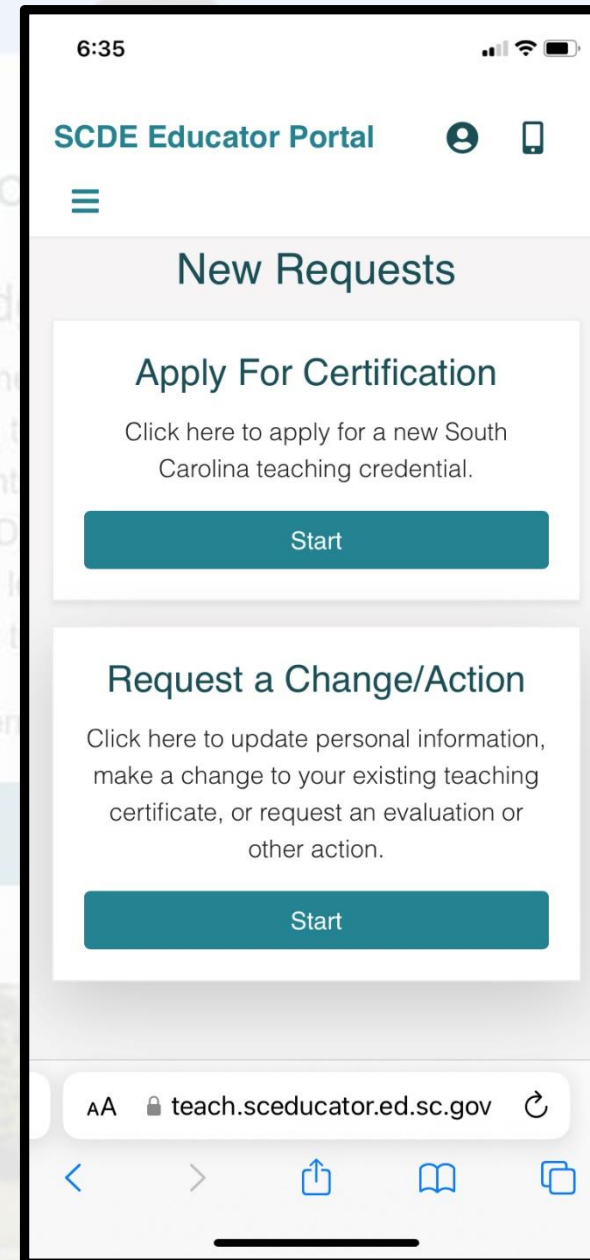
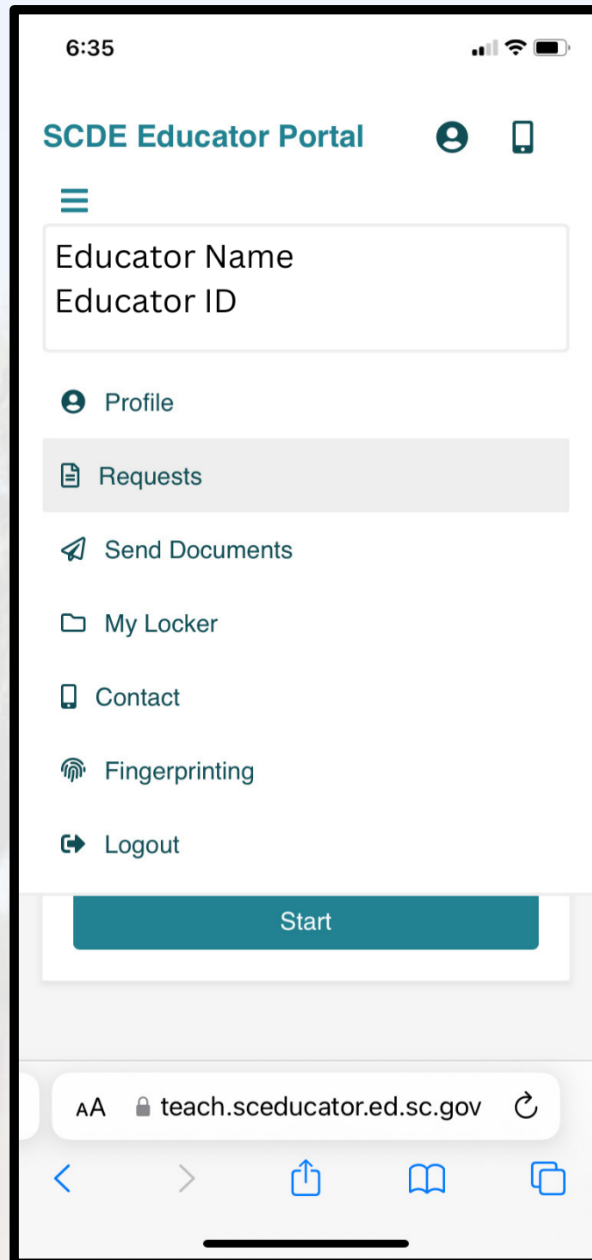


SC Educator Certification



Almost Paperless...



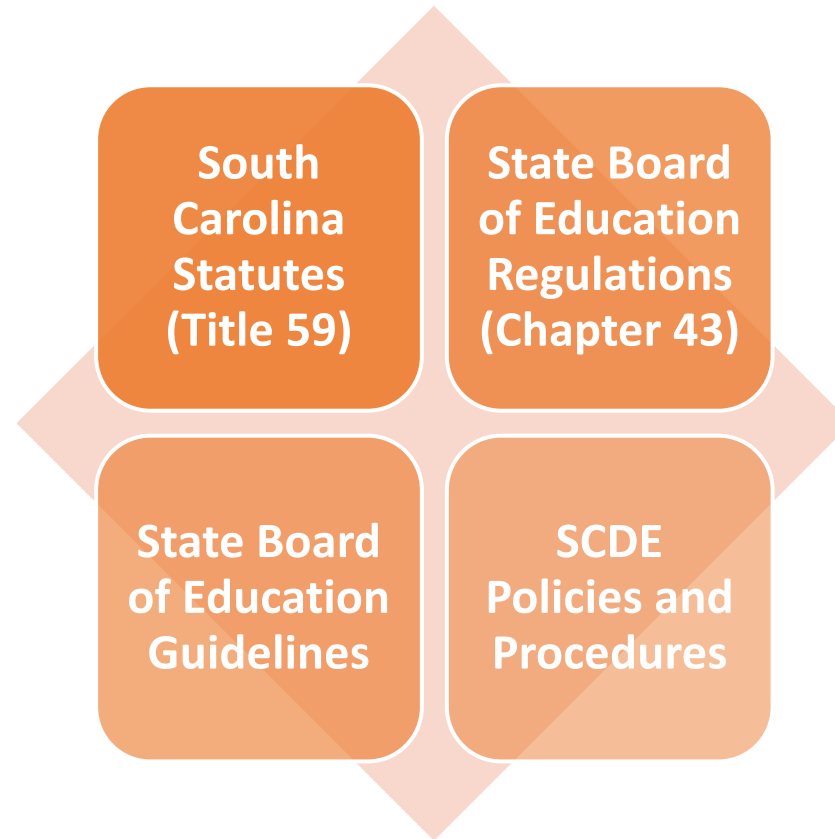


SC Educator Certificates

Certificate Types, Fields, and Endorsements



Educator Preparation and Certification Requirements



Certificate Types (Categories)



**Classroom-based
Teaching Fields**



**Instructional Service
and Support Fields**



**Leadership and
Administrative Fields**



Classroom-Based Teaching Fields

- Early Childhood (PK-Grade 3)
- Elementary (Grades 2-6)
- Montessori EC (3K-5K)
- Montessori Elem I (Grades 2-3)
- Montessori Elem II (Grades 4-6)
- Middle Level (Grades 5-8)
- High School (Grades 9-12)
- PE and Arts (PK-Grade 12)
- World Language (PK-Grade 12)
- Special Education (PK-Grade-12)
- CTE (Grades 9-12)

Preparation: Completion of a program approved for certification in the subject area and grade level—traditional or alternative route.



Service Fields

- School Librarian
- School Counselor
- School Psychologist
- Speech-Language Pathologist

Preparation: completion of an advanced program at the master's level or higher approved for certification in the specific field.



Leadership Fields

- Elementary Principal—Tier 1 & 2
- Secondary Principal—Tier 1 & 2
- Superintendent
- Career Center Director

Preparation: Completion of a program at the master's level or higher approved for certification in the specific field.



Specialized Endorsements

- Advanced Placement
- ESOL
- Gifted and Talented
- Online Teaching
- Project-based Learning
- Read to Succeed
- STEAM Education
- Secondary Transition Specialist
- Teacher Leader
- Teaching Children of Poverty

Reflect additional preparation or expertise and may be required to teach specific courses or serve in certain roles. Preparation may include coursework or approved professional development.



Options for Adding Certification Fields

Service and Leadership

- Approved program at the advanced level and
- required certification assessment for the field

Teaching

- Approved program and required certification assessment *or*
- Coursework and required certification assessment *or*
- Required certification assessment
Option since 2019 for teachers who have advanced to a Professional certificate—some limitations on fields that may be added by exam only.



Certificate Levels

- Initial
- Professional
- Internship
- Alternative Route
- CTE
 - Induction, Pre-Professional, Professional



Certificate Class (*i.e., highest education level*)

- Bachelor's
- Bachelor's + 18
- Master's
- Master's + 30
- Doctorate

Note: CTE Certificate Class reflects education level and minimum qualifying years of trade/industry experience.



Teacher Salary Schedule: Key Factors

1. Certificate Class
2. Educator Experience

YRS EXP	CLASS 8 DR DEGREE A	CLASS 7 MASTERS DEGREE +30 HRS A	CLASS 1 MASTERS DEGREE A	CLASS 2 BACHELORS DEGREE +18 HRS A	CLASS 3 BACHELORS DEGREE A
0	52,076	48,576	45,076	41,576	40,000
1	52,593	48,813	45,377	41,838	40,119
2	52,924	48,888	45,525	41,994	40,313
3	53,236	48,957	45,664	42,107	40,462
4	53,578	49,058	45,831	42,280	40,667
5	53,870	49,125	45,962	42,388	40,806



Becoming Certified in South Carolina

Pathways



Certification Pathways

- Traditional Preparation Program
- Out-of-State Educator Credential
- Alternative Route Program
- CTE Work-based Certification Program



Common Certification Requirements—All Pathways

- Application and fee
- Fingerprint-based background reports
- Clearance review including Educator ID Clearinghouse
- Official transcripts
- Documentation of certification assessments



Student Teaching Clearance

- Pursuant to S.C. Code 59-25-115
- Applies to Teacher Candidates in SC and out-of-state programs
- Required to enter full-time student teaching in a public school in SC
- Application and fee
- Fingerprint-based background reports with additional review, if required



Traditional Teacher Preparation Program

- College/university program approved for certification in the specific field
- Verification of program completion by dean or designee
- Official score reports on SC required subject area and pedagogy exams
 - Praxis or ACTFL (additional option for world language)
 - PLT, PPAT, or edTPA



Out-of-State Educators (“Reciprocity”)

- SC will issue an educator certificate for an out-of-state educator with a standard educator out-of-state credential
- Credential signifies completion of an educator preparation program, traditional or alt route
- No additional testing requirements so long as exams were required in another state
- Verification of previous educator experience
- Comparable certification fields and grade spans
- Military Spouses—expedited processing



Alternative Route Certification

- Career Changers
- Requires bachelor's degree or higher with major aligned with certification field
- Requires passing score on the related subject area certification assessment
- Completion of pre-service requirements of the specific program
- Confirmation of employment in SC public school



Approved Alternative Route Programs

- PACE
- American Board
- Teach for America
- GATE (Greenville)
- Teachers of Tomorrow
- Columbia College APEC
- TeachCharleston
- USC Columbia Carolina CAP
- Converse Art
- Advanced Fine Arts*
- Montessori*



From Alt Route to Professional Certificate

- Three-year process while employed as classroom teacher
- Certificate issued one year at a time, renewed with continued employment and successful progress
- Must complete induction and summative evaluation requirements
- Successful score on pedagogy assessment
- Any additional requirements of the specific pathway



Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certification

- Requires trade or industry experience in CTE field
- Education requirements vary by CTE field
- Trade or industry certification or state certification assessment required, depending on field
- DIRECT training program
- Basic skills assessment (WIN)
- Successful summative evaluation and 6 hours coursework



Educator Services on the Web

- [Certification](#)
- [Alternative Certification](#)
- [My SC Educator Portal](#)
- [CTE Work-Based Certification Program](#)
- [Certification Assessments](#)
- [Educator Preparation](#)



Office of Educator Services

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